

"SEC. 5325. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES.

"Each school that receives a grant under this subpart shall provide information and technical assistance to other schools within the school district, including presentations, document-sharing, and joint staff development.

"SEC. 5326. PROGRESS INCENTIVES.

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each local educational agency that receives funds under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) shall use such funding to provide assistance to schools served by the agency that have not made progress toward lowering school dropout rates after receiving assistance under this subpart for 2 fiscal years.

"SEC. 5327. SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE CALCULATION.

"For purposes of calculating a school dropout rate under this subpart, a school shall use—

"(1) the annual event school dropout rate for students leaving a school in a single year determined in accordance with the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data, if available; or

"(2) in other cases, a standard method for calculating the school dropout rate as determined by the State educational agency.

"SEC. 5328. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

"(a) REPORTING.—In order to receive funding under this subpart for a fiscal year after the first fiscal year a school receives funding under this subpart, the school shall provide, on an annual basis, to the Director a report regarding the status of the implementation of activities funded under this subpart, the disaggregated outcome data for students at schools assisted under this subpart such as dropout rates, and certification of progress from the eligible entity whose strategies the school is implementing.

"(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—On the basis of the reports submitted under subsection (a), the Director shall evaluate the effect of the activities assisted under this subpart on school dropout prevention compared to a control group.

"SEC. 5329. PROHIBITION ON TRACKING.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A school shall be ineligible to receive funding under this subpart for a fiscal year, if the school—

"(1) has in place a general education track;

"(2) provides courses with significantly different material and requirements to students at the same grade level; or

"(3) fails to encourage all students to take a core curriculum of courses.

"(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations implementing subsection (a).

"Subpart 3—Definitions; Authorization of Appropriations**"SEC. 5331. DEFINITIONS.**

"In this Act:

"(1) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Dropout Prevention and Program Completion established under section 220 of the General Education Provisions Act.

"(2) LOW-INCOME.—The term "low-income", used with respect to an individual, means an individual determined to be low-income in accordance with measures described in section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)).

"(3) SCHOOL DROPOUT.—The term "school dropout" has the meaning given the term in section 4(17) of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 6103(17)).

"SEC. 5332. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) SUBPART 1.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subpart 1,

\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

"(b) SUBPART 2.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subpart 2, \$145,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years, of which—

"(1) \$125,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 5322; and

"(2) \$20,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 5323."

SEC. 12. OFFICE OF DROPOUT PREVENTION AND PROGRAM COMPLETION.

Title II of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3411) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 216 (as added by Public Law 103-227) as section 218; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"OFFICE OF DROPOUT PREVENTION AND PROGRAM COMPLETION

"SEC. 220. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be in the Department of Education an Office of Dropout Prevention and Program Completion (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Office'), to be administered by the Director of the Office of Dropout Prevention and Program Completion. The Director of the Office shall report directly to the Secretary and shall perform such additional functions as the Secretary may prescribe.

"(b) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Dropout Prevention and Program Completion (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Director'), through the Office, shall—

"(1) help coordinate Federal, State, and local efforts to lower school dropout rates and increase program completion by middle school, secondary school, and college students;

"(2) recommend Federal policies, objectives, and priorities to lower school dropout rates and increase program completion;

"(3) oversee the implementation of subpart 2 of part C of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

"(4) develop and implement the National School Dropout Prevention Strategy under section 5312 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

"(5) annually prepare and submit to Congress and the Secretary a national report describing efforts and recommended actions regarding school dropout prevention and program completion;

"(6) recommend action to the Secretary and the President, as appropriate, regarding school dropout prevention and program completion; and

"(7) consult with and assist State and local governments regarding school dropout prevention and program completion.

"(c) SCOPE OF DUTIES.—The scope of the Director's duties under subsection (b) shall include examination of all Federal and non-Federal efforts related to—

"(1) promoting program completion for children attending middle school or secondary school;

"(2) programs to obtain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (including general equivalency diploma (GED) programs), or college degree programs; and

"(3) reentry programs for individuals aged 12 to 24 who are out of school.

"(d) DETAILING.—In carrying out the Director's duties under this section, the Director may request the head of any Federal department or agency to detail personnel who are engaged in school dropout prevention activities to another Federal department or agency in order to implement the National School Dropout Prevention Strategy."

Subtitle B—State Responsibilities**SEC. 21. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.**

Title XIV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801 et

seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART I—DROPOUT PREVENTION**"SEC. 14851. DROPOUT PREVENTION.**

"In order to receive any assistance under this Act, a State educational agency shall comply with the following provisions regarding school dropouts:

"(1) UNIFORM DATA COLLECTION.—Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Dropout Prevention Act of 1999, a State educational agency shall report to the Secretary and statewide, all school district and school data regarding school dropout rates in the State, and demographic breakdowns, according to procedures that conform with the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data.

"(2) ATTENDANCE-NEUTRAL FUNDING POLICIES.—Within 2 years after the date of enactment of the National Dropout Prevention Act of 1999, a State educational agency shall develop and implement education funding formula policies for public schools that provide appropriate incentives to retain students in school throughout the school year, such as—

"(A) a student count methodology that does not determine annual budgets based on attendance on a single day early in the academic year; and

"(B) specific incentives for retaining enrolled students throughout each year.

"(3) SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICIES.—Within 2 years after the date of enactment of the National Dropout Prevention Act of 1998, a State educational agency shall develop uniform, long-term suspension and expulsion policies for serious infractions resulting in more than 10 days of exclusion from school per academic year so that similar violations result in similar penalties."

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 5, 1999, in open session, to receive testimony on emerging threats to vital U.S. national security interests.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem be permitted to meet on March 5, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**CROP INSURANCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT**

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President I rise today as one of the proud cosponsors of S. 529, Crop Insurance for the 21st Century Act. This issue has been at the forefront of reform for American agriculture this session.

The language offered today will bring about much-needed changes in the area

of risk management for farmers and ranchers. Maintaining an effective farm income safety net is paramount to the survival of agriculture. I believe an effective crop insurance program will provide farmers and ranchers greater possibilities for economic sustainability in the future and help them out of the current financial crisis.

A truly effective crop insurance plan involves simply three things: private insurance, the federal government and the farmer or rancher. The federal government can help facilitate a program to unite the producer and the private insurance company. Privatization with government intervention will ultimately put the control in the hands of the agricultural producer. With a risk management plan, bankers are also more likely to finance producers if they have both their commodity and their price covered, with a reliable insurance program.

This bill will render relief to the inadequacies of the current program. All agricultural producers are painfully aware of the problems with the current crop insurance program. Unaffordable premiums are the primary stumbling block for producers. In years of depressed market prices, crop insurance, though badly needed, is simply unaffordable for farmers and ranchers. Other problems prevalent in the current program are inequalities in rating structure and the issue of unfair coverage given to multiple year disasters.

This bill inverts the current subsidy formula, in order to provide the highest levels of subsidies to producers at the highest levels of buy-up coverage, and thus alleviate the unaffordable premiums. It also allows for the revenue policies to be fully subsidized.

This bill also removes the exclusion for livestock in the current crop insurance program. For Montana, which derived \$991 million from livestock sales in 1996-97 this exclusion is extremely important. Of course, the choice will remain up to the livestock producer whether they wish to purchase a policy. It is important however, that they are given the option. With several years of depressed market prices, livestock producers can no longer remain in business without assistance.

This bill will also ultimately put more control in the hands of active producers. It restructures the Federal Crop Insurance board of directors to include two active producers; one in crop insurance, and one in reinsurance. The board would also include the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, the Under Secretary for Rural Development and the Chief Economist of USDA. In addition, it mandates that the Board Chairperson be one of the non-governmental members. These are important steps to ensure that the new program is run for the producers by the producers.

A larger step towards private enterprise is the initiation of a flexible subsidy pilot program for the private sector to compete on rates and delivery

expenses. I believe this will ultimately put the accountability factor on the companies carrying the policies. Much like auto insurance, health or medical insurance, companies will be forced to compete for agricultural producers business, in effect lowering premiums further.

This bill is an important tool to reform the current crop insurance program into a risk management program, designed to help the producer in the long-term. It is vital to find a solution to provide a way for farmers and ranchers to stay in agriculture. They must be able to continue to produce and distribute the world's safest food supply at a profitable margin.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with Senators ROBERTS and KERREY on this important piece of legislation. I will have some amendments forthcoming, that I believe will make this bill even more effective. I believe this bill will pave the way for massive crop insurance reform and help producers out of this economic crisis.●

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR JOHN GINOPOLIS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. John Ginopolis for his continuing dedication to support efforts that benefit children. John Ginopolis has served on the board of trustees for Children's Hospital of Michigan since 1984 and also serves on the Executive Committees for the Children's Hospital Pediatric Clinical Services Board.

A tireless fundraiser, John's annual events help support two endowments, The George Ginopolis Endowment for Hematology/Oncology and the Ginopolis-Karmanos Pediatric Cancer Research Endowment.

In 1987, John Ginopolis joined Sparky Anderson in Sparky's creation of Caring Athletes Team for Children's and Henry Ford Hospitals (CATCH) which has issued grants in excess of \$1 million and built an endowment of more than \$3 million. John has served on CATCH's board of trustees since its inception, and in 1989 John was inducted into the CATCH Hall of Fame.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that John Ginopolis is the recipient of this year's March of Dimes "Humanitarian of the Year Award." He will be given his award at the 27th annual March of Dimes "Sweetheart Ball" on Saturday, March 6, 1999, in Dearborn, Michigan. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Ginopolis.●

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR PAM AGUIRRE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Ms. Pam Aguirre, for her strong commitment to the Detroit area Hispanic community. After working her way up through her father's company, Mexican Industries, she was ultimately named CEO and

later chairman of the board. Under her guidance and leadership, Mexican Industries has blossomed into one of the most successful Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States, with over 1,500 employees and annual sales of \$167 million.

Ms. Aguirre has received recognition for her dedication to the Hispanic community and for Mexican Industries' involvement with charitable organizations. In 1996 she was presented with the "Hispanic Business Alliance Award," and she and Mexican Industries have been featured in Working Woman magazine as one of the "The Top Fifty Woman-Owned Businesses." Her dedication to community involvement is also illustrated in her participation on several boards. Among these are the Economic Club of Detroit, the Boy Scouts, Michigan Minority Business Development, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Hank Aguirre Cancer Foundation.

It is with great pleasure that I announce Ms. Pam Aguirre as the recipient of this year's March of Dimes "Humanitarian of the Year Award." She will be given this award at the 27th annual March of Dimes "Sweetheart Ball" on March 6, 1999, in Dearborn, Michigan. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Aguirre.●

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR RUBEN BURKS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Ruben Burks for his continuing dedication to the UAW, and his support of children in the Flint community. Mr. Burks has been a member of the UAW since 1955 when he went to work as an assembler at General Motors in Flint, Michigan. Throughout his career in the UAW, Mr. Ruben has served in several capacities, including shop committeeperson, alternate committeeperson, and Local 598 executive board member. In 1970 Mr. Burks was appointed to the International Union staff where he served UAW members in General Motors and independents, parts, and suppliers plants. Last year Mr. Burks had the privilege of being elected secretary-treasurer of the UAW, making him responsible for various administrative departments of the international Union. In addition, he directs the UAW's Veterans department.

A long-time community activist, Mr. Burks is actively involved in numerous civic, charitable, and youth organizations in the Flint community, including the Special Olympics, March of Dimes, Red Cross, and Easter Seals. He has also served as a director of the Flint Urban League, Goodwill Industries of Flint, and the Sam Duncan Memorial Scholarship Fund. Mr. Burks is also an active member of the advisory board of the University of Michigan at Flint.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Mr. Ruben Burks will be the recipient of this year's March of